

REMARKS

Applicant's representatives wish to thank Examiner Anwah for his time during a personal interview that took place on July 18, 2005. During the interview, applicant's representative, Christopher Daley-Watson, and the Examiner discussed distinguishing applicant's invention from the Voit reference. The Examiner agreed that aspects of applicant's invention were distinguishable from the subject matter disclosed in the Voit reference (US 6,215,790) and the other applied references, and suggested that applicant file amended claims and a Request for Continued Application. Further details regarding the substance of the interview may be found below. If the Examiner feels that additional discussion is needed to portray the activities that took place during the interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 206-359-3925.

As explained during the interview, applicants' disclosed system in Figure 1 includes a central computer or "Unified Presence Information System" (UPIS) that is connected to an inner "ring" of gateways or "Contact Points" (CP). The Contact Points in turn communicate with a middle ring of different networks that in turn communicate with an outer ring of different user devices. The UPIS actively gathers or receives status information from user devices, so that when a "call" to a user is initiated, the UPIS can help identify to which of multiple user devices the call is to be connected. The UPIS can query user devices for status information, or elements in the network can be configured to automatically send status information to the UPIS. See, e.g., application at [0019], [0020] and [0031].

By this amendment, claims 1-42 are claims and new claims 43-60 added. The new claims submitted via the present amendment are distinguishable from the system of Voit, whether viewed alone, or in combination with the other applied references, including Tang (US 5,960,173).

For example, while Voit describes a selective routing scheme, Voit does not disclose collecting status information including indications "other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the at least two communication devices are on or off." In other words, Voit focuses only on determining whether a device is available or not based on

whether it is turned on or turned off. See, e.g., Voit at column 27, line 66 – column 28, line 6.

Voit, and the other applied references, including Tang, also fail to disclose conducting proactive storing, querying, and receiving. For example, Voit is directed to selective routing after a call has been placed, and fails to disclose specific activities that occur "prior to receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with the requestor and one of the multiple communication devices." More specifically, as recited in claim 43 these activities may include "storing information about the multiple communication devices associated with the user," "querying the first network or the second network for status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user," and "receiving at the central location status information regarding the multiple communication devices from the respective networks." The other independent claims, including claims 49, 52, 59, and 60, also similarly recite, inter alia, storing, querying, and/or receiving prior to receiving a request to establish a communication (e.g., between a communication initiator and a user/intended recipient). In contrast with applicant's claims, Voit describes that a status query is executed only after a communication session is established (or at least initiated) between the caller's device and at least one of the called party's devices. See e.g., Figures 6A-7C, and corresponding text. Accordingly, for at least these reasons claims 43, 49, 52, 59, and 60 (and their dependents) are also allowable.


In view of the above amendment and the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination, applicant believes the claims listed above are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3925.

An extension of time fee is included with this Amendment.

However, if any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 101948074US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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